

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/039) - Ad blitz in Indonesia - People smuggling - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 109) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Okay. I will place further questions on that matter on notice. The Australian reported that the department has launched an ad blitz in Indonesia in the last month. Is that correct?

Mr Pezzullo: If it pertains to people smuggling, I think we might be going back to Operation Sovereign Borders.

Senator KIM CARR: So you do not have information on that?

Mr Pezzullo: Generally I do because the money is all expended under my authority as secretary.

Mr Quaedvlieg is now in transit to another location, so the acting commissioner is now Mr Outram. Unless Mr Outram has some advice, we will really need to seek that information.

Senator KIM CARR: If necessary, I will put it on notice. I am interested in knowing the expenditure involved in this campaign.

Mr Pezzullo: I will describe the general expenditure and then, if the deputy commissioner has details on the funds, he will add to that. We have for a period of time, including prior to the advent of Operation Sovereign Borders but on an intensified basis since, undertaken in collaboration with our overseas partners—in this case the government of Indonesia—public information campaigns to indicate that the way to Australia is shut in terms of maritime arrivals. You cannot get to Australia by these means. If you attempt to, you will be dealt with under our policy known as Operation Sovereign Borders. At the very least you will be sent to regional processing centres. If not, you will be dealt with through the interception procedures that General Bottrell described earlier and either turned back or taken back to another locality. Senator KIM CARR: How much does it cost?

Mr Pezzullo: That is the point at which, if the acting commissioner has got some advice, he can assist. Otherwise, we will take it on notice. It is technically an OSB matter.

Mr Outram: It is all under Operation Sovereign Borders. Of course, Major General Bottrell has departed. He would have had that detail, so we would need to take that on notice. As he said, the strategic communications in source countries is a key component of the operation.

Answer:

\$137,764 AUD